

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01751 070217Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----027709 070223Z /62  
O 070140Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6953  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01751

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SECRETARY  
GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11651: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS  
SUBJECT: LOS: MINISTER JAMIESON'S RESPONSE TO SECRETARY  
ON DEEP SEABED MINING

REF: A. STATE 70414; B. OTTAWA 1750, C. OTTAWA 1427

1. MAURICE COPITHORNE, EXTAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS, CALLED IN CHARGE ON APRIL 6 TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JAMIESON TO SECRETARY VANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE OF MARCH 17 (REF A). TEXT TRANSMITTED REF B.

2. IN PRESENTING TEXT, COPITHORNE STATED THAT JAMIESON'S RESPONSE ATTEMPTED TO REFLECT THE SAME POSITIVE TONE EMPLOYED BY THE SECRETARY. MOREOVER, AS JAMIESON'S LETTER INDICATES, GOC FOUND SECRETARY'S LETTER MOST REASSURING WITH RESPECT TO U.S. COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE LOS TREATY. COOITHORNE ALSO NOTED THAT AMBASSADORS  
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RICHARDSON AND BEASLEY, ACTING ON THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL, HAVE ALREADY MET IN GENEVA TO BEGIN DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE DEEP SEABED MINING ISSUE.

3. COOITHORNE THEN CITED THE CONSIDERABLE GULF WHICH SEPARATES THE U.S. AND CANADIAN POSITIONS. HE WELCOMED AN EFFORT TO EXPLORE BILATERAL AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL

MEANS OF BRIDGING THE GULL, THOUGH HE POLNTED OUT (AS JAMIESON HAD TO AMBASSADOR ENDERS--REF C, PARA 3) THAT CANADIAN CONCERNS RELATE NOT ONLY TO THE U.S. BUT ALSO TO JAPAN, GERMANY AND OTHER EC CONSUMER NATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, ANY SIDE AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MULTILATERAL IN CHARACTER. COPITHORNE ILLUSTRATED THE POINT BY CALLING THE CHARGE'S ATTENTION TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON MARCH 30 BY OCEAN MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED THAT IT HAD SUCCEEDED IN THE TECHNICAL FEAT OF PUMPING A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF MANGANESE NODULES FROM A DEPTH OF THREE MILES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD GONE ON TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SCOPE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAD BEEN REDUCED "BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK FOR NICKEL AND COPPER MARKETS AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE LEGAL AND FISCAL REGIMES UNDER WHICH DEEP SEA MINING WOULD OPERATE." COPITHORNE INTERPRETED THIS STATEMENT AS REFLECTING CONFLICTING INTERESTS AMONG THE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS, SOME OF WHOM REPRESENT LAND BASED PRODUCERS AND OTHERS MAJOR CONSUMERS.

4. COPITHORNE COMPLETED HIS COMMENTARY ON JAMIESON'S MESSAGE BY POINTING TO THE FINAL SENTENCES OF THE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH, WHICH ASSERT THE DEPTH OF CANADIAN INTERESTS AND PARTICULARLY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS IN LIGHT OF RECENT MAJOR LAY-OFFS IN CANADIAN MINING CENTERS. COPITHORNE NOTED THAT ANY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT TO WHICH JAMIESON MIGHT ADHERE WOULD HAVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE ONE WHICH HE COULD EFFECTIVELY DEFEND IN PARLIAMENT. FINALLY, COPITHORNE SAID THAT DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH LIE AHEAD, JAMIESON IS ANXIOUS THAT THE TWO NEGOTIATORS WORK DILIGENTLY TOWARD A SOLUTION, AFTER WHICH MINISTERS MIGHT MEET TO REVIEW THE OPTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE COPITHORNE SOUGHT TO CAST JAMIESON'S MESSAGE IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, HIS OWN PARSING OF IT GAVE LITTLE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM. IN RESPONSE TO HIS EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION THAT THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE HAD DISPELLED CANADIAN CONCERN OVER RUMORS THAT USG WAS ABANDONING HOPE FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF LOS CONFERENCE, I CONFIRMED OUR STEADFASTNESS BUT ALSO REPEATED THE SECRETARY'S POINT THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE PRICE WE CAN PAY TO ACHIEVE A TREATY.

6. DURING OUR DISCUSSION, COPITHORNE EXPRESSED THE VIEW, WHICH MAY BE GROWING IN CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT IMPASSE RESTS WITH TIME AND THE EXHAUSTION OF CURRENT NICKEL SULPHIDE RESERVES, WITH LATERITE-SOURCED PRODUCTION PHASED IN OVER THE NEXT DECADE, AND SEABED PRODUCTION ONLY AT THE END

OF THIS CENTURY. DUEMLING

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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